

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following list of claims contains all of the claims that are, or ever have been, in the present application. This list will replace all other prior versions, and listings, of the claims:

Listing of claims:

- 1) (withdrawn) A method of fabricating a fibrous member comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a mixture, said mixture comprising a plurality of fibers, a lubricant, and a suspension fluid, said suspension fluid filling a void space between said fibers;
 - b) subjecting said mixture to at least one compressive force, said compressive force causing the migration and at least partial alignment of said fibers; and
 - c) removing substantially all of said suspension fluid from said mixture.
- 2) (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said mixture further comprises a biologically active agent.
- 3) (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said mixture further comprises a reinforcing agent.
- 4) (canceled)
- 5) (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said removing of said suspension fluid comprises wicking away suspension fluid that is on an exterior surface of said fibrous member.
- 6) (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein said wicking away of suspension fluid involves compressing said mixtures against at least one wicking element
- 7) (canceled)
- 8) (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said lubricant is in the form of a liquid.
- 9) (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said lubricant is in the form of a solid.
- 10) (withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein said solid lubricant is further provided in a carrier fluid.
- 11) (canceled)
- 12) (canceled)

- 13) (canceled)
- 14) (canceled)
- 15) (canceled)
- 16) (canceled)
- 17) (canceled)
- 18) (canceled)
- 19) (canceled)
- 20) (canceled)
- 21) (withdrawn) The method of fabricating a fibrous member comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a mixture, said mixture comprising a plurality of fibers, a lubricant and a suspension fluid, said suspension fluid filling a void space between said fibers;
 - b) subjecting said mixture to at least one compressive force, said compressive force causing the migration and at least partial alignment of said fibers;
 - c) cross-linking at least a portion of said mixture;
 - d) subjecting said at least partially cross-linked mixture to a second compressive force;
 - and
 - e) removing substantially all of said suspension fluid from said mixture.
- 22) (currently amended) An implantable device comprising a structure comprising polymer fibers that are at least partially aligned, wherein said alignment of said fibers expresses itself as an architecture selected from the group consisting of layers and plates, each of said plate or layer comprising aligned polymer fibers, said layers and plates defining at least one space therebetween comprising fluid planes, said fluid planes existing as multiple fissures located randomly within the structure, further wherein said architecture is present throughout said structure, and further wherein said implantable device is arranged to be surgically implanted into a body of a living being~~originally having void spaces therebetween, wherein said fibers have been compressed while in contact with a lubricant, said lubricant serving to reduce said void space by facilitating migration and alignment of said polymer fibers.~~

- 23) (original) The implantable device of claim 22 further comprising at least one reinforcing element.
- 24) (original) The implantable device of claim 23, wherein said at least one reinforcing element is selected from the group consisting of particulates, threads, fibers, whiskers, textiles, rods, meshes, and combinations thereof.
- 25) (original) The implantable device of claim 22 further comprising at least one biologically active agent.
- 26) (original) The implantable device of claim 23 further comprising at least one biologically active agent.
- 27) (canceled)
- 28) (currently amended) The implantable device of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 22 wherein said plates of ~~oriented-aligned~~ fibers do not traverse the length of said device, said plates of ~~oriented-aligned~~ fibers being nested in a compact orientation ~~and divided by a plurality of random multiple fissures~~.
- 29) (previously presented) The implantable device of claim 22 wherein said device has an anisotropic structure.
- 30) (previously presented) The implantable device of claim 22 wherein said device has an isotropic structure in two dimensions.
- 31) (currently amended) An implantable device comprising polymer fibers originally having void spaces therebetween, wherein said fibers have been compressed while in contact with a fluid comprising a lubricant, said lubricant serving to reduce said void space by enabling migration ~~and alignment~~ of said polymer fibers through said fluid, and alignment of said polymer fibers, and wherein polymer fibers on a periphery of said implantable device are at least partially cross-linked, and further wherein polymer fibers located away from said periphery are not cross-linked, and further wherein said implantable device is suitable for implantation into a body of a living being.
- 32) (previously presented) The implantable device of claim 31 further comprising at least one pocket located inside the cross-linked fiber periphery.

- 33) (previously presented) The implantable device of claim 32 further comprising at least one substance provided to said at least one pocket, wherein said at least one substance is selected from the group consisting of ceramics, polymers, cells, biologically active agents, liquids and combinations thereof.
- 34) (withdrawn) An implantable device comprising polymer fibers originally having void spaces therebetween, wherein said fibers have been compressed while in contact with a lubricant, said lubricant serving to reduce said void space by facilitating migration and alignment of said polymer fibers, wherein said compression is oriented towards a second implantable device, thereby said polymer fibers form a coating on said second implantable device.
- 35) (withdrawn) The implantable device of claim 34, wherein the fibers are coated onto said second implantable device, said second implantable device being an interference screw.
- 36) (previously presented) The implantable device of claim 22, wherein the device is arranged to swell upon implantation and exposure to a bodily fluid, thereby functioning as a hemostatic tract plug.
- 37) (original) The implantable device of claim 22, wherein said implantable device is arranged to accept a suture and resist tearing.
- 38) (original) The implantable device of claim 22, wherein said implantable device serves a medical device function, said function selected from the group consisting of dura repair, hernia repair, rotator cuff repair, nerve repair, ligament repair, tendon repair, meniscal repair, muscle repair, sling, joint repair, spinal repair, craniofacial repair, and maxiofacial repair.

39) (currently amended) An implantable device comprising multiple layers of polymer fibers produced by a process comprising:

(a) providing a mixture of polymer fibers and at least one ~~lubricant~~liquid, said mixture defining ~~oid~~void spaces between said polymer fibers and ~~lubricant~~liquid; and
(b) compressing said mixture, thereby reducing an amount of said void space and facilitating ~~migration and~~migration and alignment of said ~~multiple layers of polymer fibers to form fibrous plates~~, wherein upon compression said ~~layers of polymer fibers~~fibrous plates create a ~~laminated-layered~~layered structure, wherein said layering occurs at a microscopic as well as at a macroscopic level.

40) (original) The implantable device of claim 39, wherein the multiple layers of polymer fibers are composed of different polymers.

41) (original) The implantable device of claim 39, wherein the multiple layers of polymer fibers form a gradient.

42) (currently amended) A compressed fibrous matrix wherein said matrix comprises multiple plates of oriented fibers, said multiple plates being present throughout said matrix and existing both at a microscopic as well as a macroscopic level, and further said plates being locked in a compact anisotropic structure, with said plates being formed by applying a compressive force to a slurry comprising said fibers and a suspending fluid, said fibers being distributed in said suspending fluid ~~said~~compression.

43) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein said plates are oriented.

44) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein said plates are aligned.

45) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein said plates are randomly oriented.

46) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the orientation of fibers within each plate is independent of the orientation of fibers within adjacent plates.

47) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the fibers are composed of at least two different polymers.

48) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the fibers are contacted with a lubricant prior to said compression.

- 49) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the fibers are contacted with a plasticizer.
- 50) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the fibers are contacted with a surfactant.
- 51) (canceled)
- 52) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the plates form microscopic laminations.
- 53) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the matrix is cross-linked.
- 54) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein only the outer surface of the fibrous matrix is cross-linked leaving the interior substantially un-cross-linked.
- 55) (original) The matrix of claim 42 in the form of a pocket.
- 56) (original) The matrix of claim 42 in the form of a tube.
- 57) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the fibrous matrix is compressed into a sheet.
- 58) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the fibrous matrix is compressed into a cylinder.
- 59) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the fibrous matrix is compressed into a block.
- 60) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the plates of the fibrous matrix create a gradient.
- 61) (original) The matrix of claim 42 further containing a reinforcing material.
- 62) (original) The matrix of claim 42 wherein the plates form a coating around an object.
- 63) (original) The matrix of claim 42 further containing a biologically active agent.
- 64) (original) The matrix of claim 42 further containing a microstructure.
- 65) (original) The matrix of claim 42 further containing a particulate.
- 66) (withdrawn) A prosthesis suitable for implantation in a living being, comprising a compact, anisotropic structure comprising a plurality of layers or plate-like members locked to one another, the layers or plate-like members comprising aligned, biodegradable fibers.
- 67) (withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 66, wherein said structure is isotropic in two dimensions.

- 68) (withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 66, wherein said layers or plate-like members extend substantially completely through said structure.
- 69) (withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 66, wherein said layers or plate-like members do not extend completely through said structure, but rather exist as multiple fissures located randomly throughout said structure.
- 70) (withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 66, wherein said structure further comprises at least one lubricant.
- 71) (withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 66, wherein said structure further comprises an inter fiber void space defined by a space between said fibers.
- 72) (withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 66, wherein said structure further comprises at least one additive.
- 73) (withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 72, wherein said additive comprises at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a surfactant, a plasticizer, particulate, a porosifier and a mesh.
- 74) (new) The implantable device of claim 24, further comprising at least one lubricant distributed among said aligned fibers.
- 75) (new) The implantable device of claim 24, existing as claimed at a time x, and further wherein at a time y that is earlier than time x, said implantable device further comprised at least one lubricant in contact with said fibers, and void space, and in between said time y and said time x, said implantable device was subjected to compression, whereby said lubricant served to reduce said void space by facilitating migration and alignment of said polymer fibers.
- 76) (new) The implantable device of claim 31, wherein said alignment of said polymer fibers comprises alignment into a layered structure, the layering occurring at both a microscopic level as well as a macroscopic level.
- 77) (new) The implantable device of claim 22, wherein said plates are aligned.
- 78) (new) The implantable device of claim 22, wherein said plates are randomly oriented.
- 79) (new) The implantable device of claim 22, wherein the orientation of fibers within each plate is independent of the orientation of fibers within adjacent plates.

- 80) (new) The implantable device of claim 31, wherein said alignment of said fibers takes the form of a plurality of plates, the fibers within a given plate being oriented.
- 81) (new) The implantable device of claim 80, wherein said plates are aligned.
- 82) (new) The implantable device of claim 80, wherein said plates are randomly oriented.
- 83) (new) The implantable device of claim 80, wherein the orientation of fibers within each plate is independent of the orientation of fibers within adjacent plates.
- 84) (new) The implantable device of claim 31, wherein the fibers are composed of at least two different polymers.
- 85) (new) The implantable device of claim 31, wherein the fibers are contacted with a plasticizer.
- 86) (new) The implantable device of claim 31, wherein the fibers are contacted with a surfactant.
- 87) (new) The implantable device of claim 31, wherein the plates form microscopic laminations.